

Bavarian News

Vol. 2 Nr. 7

Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels and Vilseck

April 5, 2006



Members of the 94th Engineers are honored during a March 29 Welcome Home Celebration. Photo by Reggie Dean

Welcome Home

‘Downrange discipline’ made 94th Engineers deployment a success

by KATHY JORDAN
Staff writer

An overcast sky and light rain did not stop family and friends from saluting Soldiers of the Headquarters and Support Group, Alpha and Bravo companies, and the 535th Engineer Company Combat Support Equipment March 29.

Community and family members turned out for the 94th Engineer Combat Support Battalion (Heavy)’s official welcome home ceremony at Vilseck Army Airfield despite the dreary weather.

The 94th deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in January 2005.

The unit kicked off their year-long deployment with an 1,100 km tactical road march across Iraq before providing full spectrum engineer mission support.

In conjunction with the 133rd Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), 1st COSCOM,

and Task Force Freedom, the 94th and 535th CSE moved 250 pieces of equipment from Kuwait to Mosul, and maintained a 90 percent operational readiness rate of its fleet equipment throughout the deployment.

Their mission included:

- civilian humanitarian reconstruction and route clearance
- combat out-post reconstruction and traffic control point reconstruction
- police force protection upgrades and detention facility construction and upgrades
- force protection upgrades for U.S. forces
- force protection support for the Iraqi National Assembly elections

See *Humanitarian*, page 4

Celebration hails 18th CSB Soldiers return from OIF duty

by KATHY JORDAN
Staff writer

Soldiers from the 11th Heavy Equipment Transportation Company and 41st Palletized Loading Systems Transportation Company were welcomed home March 29 at Vilseck’s Memorial Fitness Center.

See *18th CSB Soldier*, page 4



Photo by Reggie Dean

Crowds enjoy the music of Master P and Lil’ Romeo.

SMA Preston hails opening of \$13M gym complex

Fitness facility compares with high-end stateside membership clubs

by ADRIANE FOSS
Editor, Bavarian News

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston welcomed guests to the grand opening of a \$13 million physical fitness center at Grafenwoehr March 22.

Preston, who visited Grafenwoehr last month as part of a weeks-long visit to overseas installations, toured the new state-of-the art facility and praised what the gym has to offer Army families.



Preston

See *Sports*, page 4

Place free ads in Bavarian News

Do you have something you want to sell? Looking for that hard-to-find item that you don’t pay a lot for?

If you are a military ID card holder and you’ve got something you want to buy or sell, you can place a free classified ad in the Bavarian News.

Why search ads in other papers, only to find out the item you want is for sale in another region? Place your ad today in the Bavarian News in of the following categories:

- Pets for Sale/Free
- Vehicles for Sale
- Miscellaneous for Sale/Free
- Job Opportunities
- Wanted
- Lost and Found
- Personal
- Contact
- Home Rentals
- Collectibles
- And More

The Bavarian News is a biweekly publication with a 6,000 circulation.

It is a civilian enterprise newspaper authorized by Army Regulation 360-1.

The paper is printed by Werbeagentur und Verlag Roswitha Lehner, and distributed every other Wednesday on Grafenwoehr, Vilseck, and Hohenfels.

Submit your ad online at <http://www.rlehner.de/trainingtimes/freeclass.htm>.

AAFES gas prices increase by \$.05 per gallon in Germany

Army & Air Force Exchange overseas fuel prices, as established using the DoE average, for the month of April 2006, will be as follows:

Germany: Unleaded – \$ 2.543 Super Unleaded – \$2.639 Super Plus Unleaded – \$2.736 Diesel – \$2.715	United Kingdom: Super Unleaded – \$2.586 Diesel – \$2.661
Netherlands*: Unleaded – \$2.752 Super Plus Unleaded – \$2.993 Diesel – \$2.810	Azores: Super Unleaded – \$2.685
	Turkey: Super Unleaded – \$2.706 Diesel Coupon – \$3.020

AAFES-Europe Region Communications

Army and Air Force Exchange Service gas prices have increased by about \$.05 per gallon in Germany for the month of April.

The U.S. Department of Energy states that higher gasoline pump prices are the result of many factors:

- increased demand due to warmer weather
- higher gasoline imports
- continued reduced refining capacity (due to maintenance and hurricane recovery)
- annual changeover from winter to summer fuels, coupled with the transition from MTBE to ethanol in reformulated gasoline

AAFES’ gas policy, as ap-

proved by its military board of directors, is to set prices based on the monthly average for each grade of gasoline in the continental United States.

According to the DoE, the average price for regular unleaded fuel in the United States is still 39.5 cents a gallon higher than it was at the same time last year.

See *U.S. gas prices*, page 4

Lt. Col. Dieter Kargl takes over German Army command at Grafenwoehr

by Sgt. Maj. GERALD MORGENSTERN
German Army Grafenwoehr

The deputy commander of the German Army’s Defense Area Command IV, Brig. Gen. Erich Staudacher handed over the reigns of the German Army Command in Grafenwoehr to Lt. Col. Dieter Kargl during a March 23 ceremony at the Grafenwoehr Stadthalle.

Regensburg’s German Army Music Corps 4 opened the military ceremony with patriotic selections.

Outgoing commander Lt. Col. Franz Lienert welcomed civilian and military guests and reflected on his nearly 37 years of service in the German Army.

He assured Kargl that he is taking over a command where the soldiers and civilian employees are highly motivated and operate at a high performance level.

“The Grafenwoehr Training Area as a joint and multinational training center will see an increasing significance in Europe,” said Staudacher.

He also emphasized that in its near century-old history, the training area has become the largest and most modern NATO-training area in Europe.

After greeting the commander of the Joint Multinational Training Command, Brig. Gen. David Perkins, and U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Commander Col. Brian Boyle, Staudacher addressed the advisory and support role of the local German Army Command to U.S. forces.

“You have truly laid the

foundation for German-American relations and public relations,” said Staudacher to Lienert, before wishing him well for his retirement.

Lienert will retire to his current hometown of Hammelburg.

Staudacher described the incoming commander as well prepared for his new tasks. Born in 1953 in Nuernberg, Kargl was commissioned into the German army in 1973. He has a degree in mechanical engineering and is a graduate

of the German army’s ammunition school.

He was stationed in Munich and at the garrison command in Baumholder as range operations safety officer. Since 1992, he has served as the commander of the German army’s training area in Münsingen.

Staudacher said he does not view last year’s closure of the command in Münsingen as a precedence for Grafenwoehr, and said the goal must be

to keep the Grafenwoehr Training Area attractive so that troops will continue to enjoy using it.

See *Community*, page 4



Lienert



Kargl

Q&A

What is your most memorable April Fool's prank?



Mike Hoelen

"Looking at someone and saying, 'Your sock's untied,' and when they look down, say 'April Fool's!'"

Mary Brown

"My mom dyed her hair red once without telling us. Then she pulled off her shower cap at breakfast and was like, 'April Fool's!'"



1st Sgt. Darren Hargrove

One of my Soldiers called in and pretended to be really upset with his dental treatment. The way he talked made my blood pressure rise, and then he said 'April Fool's!'"

Angel Latorre

I put a fake spider on a co-worker's desk, and the next thing I knew she came running out of her office into the next."



Robert Chambers

"That's my birth month. You could call that April Fool's."

Tierra McLeod

"We hid in our classroom and the teacher couldn't find us, and so she went and got the principal. Then we jumped out and yelled 'April Fool's!'"



Hans Hathaway

"We used to flush cherry bombs down the toilets at school."

Neal Hill

"My son used to try and pull pranks on me when he was younger. But they were so blatantly obvious that they never really worked."



Commentary

'Thoughts while moving around'

"Welcome Home Celebration, Avian Flu, 'Old' Gym Capacity"

It has been quite a couple of weeks with the arrival of the 2CR leadership and the formal welcome homes of 18th Corps Support Battalion and 94th Engineer Combat Battalion!

Without further ado let's get into the column.

Welcome Home Celebration.

Kudos to everyone for the excellent ceremonies and celebration acknowledging the return of two companies of the 18th CSB and 94th Engineers.

Both ceremonies were excellent and I enjoyed the recognition of the children born while the unit was deployed during the 94th's event.

As far as the celebration goes, my personal thanks to the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr DPTMS, particularly Maj. Gillespie and the entire MWR staff, from Ms. Binder to Mr. Snoddy and countless others who made this a tremendous event. That includes AFN, DES, and soldiers who executed set-up and take-down. The list is endless.

Please accept my personal thanks for making this an event our honorees will long remember. Plenty of food for all, local and national entertainment and the children's' activities were unbelievable. With respect to the headliner entertainment, Lil' Romeo was a hit, and Master P's personal link to the military (his

grandfather and several aunts and uncles served) made it extra special for him to spend time with our Soldiers. In short, it was a great night for all involved.

Avian Flu. As part of contingency planning, the garrison has held a series of Table Top exercises on the potential impact of avian flu in this area. During the exercises, we discovered that confusing information on what to do has been provided to the community. This was compounded when guidance on what to do if a dead bird is found was provided by the 100th Medical Detachment and published in the last issue of the Bavarian News. We are in the process of ensuring that the correct message is relayed to all agencies and individuals throughout the community. To date, the virus is not a threat to the health of the U.S. military personnel. It is still very difficult for humans to contract the disease. With respect to the discovery of dead birds:

Small song birds:

While H5N1 could affect small birds, there have not been any findings of small bird H5N1 cases. Lots of small birds die this time of year, every year, from normal environmental impacts. With all of the media attention on avian flu, dead birds cause people to be concerned. In the case of a small wild bird being found dead anywhere on or off post, individuals should dispose of it

themselves by burying it or placing it in a plastic bag and disposing of it with the normal trash. Do not handle the bird. Wear gloves or use some other means to ensure no bird-to-hand contact.

Large birds:

On Post: Any large dead bird such as a condor, goose, duck, swan, eagle, owl, hawk, stork, turkey, or chicken is cause for concern. If you find a large dead bird anywhere on post, the MPs MUST be notified immediately.

Off post: If you find a large dead bird anywhere off post, immediately call the German police, who will give you further guidance. If you are uncomfortable calling the German police, call the MP desk sergeant who will contact the German police for you.

Other Safety Measures:

Domestic cats should be kept indoors, and dogs should be kept on a leash for the duration of the current bird flu problem. Domestic animals that eat dead birds infected with H5N1 can contract the disease. As far as human interface, it is still normal flu season, and we should do what we do in a normal flu season.



Washing your hands, covering your nose and mouth when sneezing, not coughing on other personnel, etc., are all measures that help keep flu from spreading throughout the community. Again the virus is not a threat to date. It is still difficult to get the disease, and we should all perform normal flu season sanity measures as described in the flyer on Page 10.

Older gym hours. As you know we opened the new fitness facility. Many of you have noticed that there are no racquetball courts in it. We retained the racquetball courts in the older fitness facility and they are open Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 4-8 p.m. We will continue to monitor usage and adjust the hours as necessary. In addition, massage therapy will continue in the older fitness location during regularly scheduled appointment times.

With the recent rain and the general warming of temperatures, it does seem like spring is coming quickly. However, stay safe, drive carefully, and together we will continue to work to make this area the best place to live and work in Germany.

Col. Brian T. Boyle

Col. Brian T. Boyle
Commander, U.S. Army
Garrison Grafenwoehr

Resources available to assist sexual assault victims 24/7 at Grafenwoehr, Vilseck

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office

Sexual assaults are a challenge to our nation, and the military is not immune to this challenge. In calendar year 2004, there were 1,700 reported sexual assaults within the military.

Sexual assaults are detrimental to mission readiness and conflict with the core values of each military service. Needless to say, sexual assault will not be tolerated in the Department of Defense.

DoD's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program incorporates new policy that represents fundamental change for the military services. Confidentiality and restricted reporting are examples of the strong steps forward that have been taken to address sexual assault.

The goals of the SAPR Program are threefold:

To prevent sexual assaults through education and training

To ensure that active duty service members who are sexually assaulted are protected, treated with dignity and respect, and receive appropriate and responsive care

To hold perpetrators of such assaults accountable

Local Resources

The intent of the SAPR Program, beyond preventing sexual assaults, is to ensure that regardless of where a victim is assigned there will be

local resources to give that victim the best care.

To provide a consistent level of care and treatment for victims, mandatory and essential training tasks have been established for those personnel who respond to sexual assaults. These personnel are part of larger disciplines that are commonly referred to as 'response groups' in the SAPR Program.

Response groups include the following:

- sexual assault response coordinators, or SARCs
- victim advocates, or VAs
- healthcare providers
- law enforcement and criminal
- judge advocates
- chaplains

SARCs serve as the center of gravity for each installation's sexual assault prevention and response program. They serve as the single point of contact to coordinate sexual assault victim care and to track the services provided to the victim from initial report of a sexual assault through disposition and resolution of the victim's health and well-being.

While the SARC primarily provides system advocacy, the VA provides 24/7 direct response to victims. VAs assist victims in navigating the military's response network.

They are not counselors, therapists, or investigators. VAs furnish accurate and comprehensive information on

available options and resources so the victim can make informed decisions when managing their personal information.

Here in Grafenwoehr and Vilseck, we have resources that operate 24/7 in support of sexual assault victims. They include but are not limited to the Sexual Assault Response Line, military police, Army One Source.

Additionally we have on-call capabilities that respond around the clock when called upon at both Grafenwoehr and Vilseck: health clinics, social workers, chaplains, unit VAs, and CID agents.

All of these resources can be activated by calling the local Sexual Assault Response Line at 476-3217 or 09662-833217, 24/7 access.

For emergencies and an immediate investigation, call the military police station at Grafenwoehr or Vilseck.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Nationally, April is observed as Sexual Assault Awareness Month to raise awareness about sexual assault and promote prevention of sexual violence through special events and public education.

The DoD theme for 2006 SAAM is: Sexual Assault Prevention Begins With You.

This slogan serves to remind us that each of us can play a role—as a leader, a teacher, a friend or co-worker—in sexual assault prevention.

New DoD policies addressing sexual assault prevention and response seek to establish a climate of confidence in which:

- sexual assault and the attitudes that promote it are not tolerated
- victims of sexual assault receive the care and support that they need
- the offenders are held accountable for their actions

You are encouraged to learn more about the issue of sexual assault and what you can do to prevent it by participating in local SAAM activities.

Did You Know?

"In the United States, a rape is reported about once every five minutes."

– FBI Uniform Crime Report, 2000

"1 in 33 men (3%) and 1 in 6 women (17%) reported experiencing an attempted or completed rape at some time in their lives."

– National Institute of Justice, 2000

"Nearly 70 percent of victims know their attacker."

– 2003 National Crime Victimization Survey

"In calendar year 2004 there were 1,700 reported sexual assaults in the military services; 123 of these occurred in the Area of Responsibility (AOR)."

– DoD CY04 Annual Report to Congress – Sexual Assault in the Military Services

"Out of the 1,700 reported sexual assaults, there were 104 reported assaults on men."

– DoD CY04 Annual Report to Congress – Sexual Assault in the Military Services

Bavarian News

Grafenwoehr • Hohenfels • Vilseck

Producer: MILCOM Advertising Agency

Roswitha Lehner

Zeilaeckerstrasse 35 • 92637 Weiden • Telefax 0961-67050-32

Internet: www.milcom.de

Bavarian News is an unofficial biweekly publication authorized by AR 360-1. Editorial views are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. The paper is an offset publication prepared and edited by the U.S. Army Garrison-Grafenwoehr Public Affairs Office. Bavarian News is printed by Werbeagentur und Verlag Roswitha Lehner and distributed every other Wednesday. Circulation is 6,000 copies. Submissions are welcome. Send letters to the editor and commentaries to PAO, Unit 28130, Attn: Bavarian News, APO AE 09114, or e-mail them to usagnews@graf.eur.army.mil. Telephone the Bavarian News at 475-7113 or fax to 475-7935 with story ideas and events.



USAG-G Commander
Col. Brian Boyle

USAG-G Public Affairs Officer
Kathleen Gibbs (475-8103)

Command Information Officer
Nick D'Amario (475-6417)

Bavarian News Editor
Adriane Foss (475-7113)

Grafenwoehr Correspondent
Shannon Hill (475-1600)

Hohenfels Correspondent
Alice Adler (466-2479)

Vilseck Correspondent
Kathy Jordan (476-1600)

Food & Culture Columnist
Martina Bias (475-1600)

3rd Annual Women's symposium highlights women's issues

by Shannon Hill
Staff writer

March 25 marked the third annual Women's Fitness Symposium at the Grafenwoehr Field House.

The four-hour event honoring Women's History Month focused on health and other issues unique to women.

Garrison Grafenwoehr Commander Col. Brian Boyle kicked off the event with welcome remarks.

The symposium consisted of fitness sessions with volunteer trainers, and information sessions, including:

- body and soul
- breast cancer
- substance abuse awareness

The symposium is the brainchild of Equal Employment Opportunity Assistant Josie Hammond, a breast cancer survivor in remission for five years.

Hammond's eyes welled with tears when she addressed the audience about the effects the cancer had on her and her family.

"When I was undergoing treatment, I wasn't allowed to exercise for one and a half years," she said.

Hammond said when she was allowed to exercise again, she felt more in control of her life and her body.

She said she was inspired to start the symposium because it brought women of the community together and opened up conversation on specific female issues.

Hammond talked about the program's success.

Despite the long months of preparation for the symposium, she insisted that the credit for its success goes to the volunteers and program participants.

"It's nice to have something geared and focused towards women," said Master Sgt. Marilyn Mazalewski.

"This is my last year here," said Hammond, "and I can only hope that someone continues



Symposium attendees participated in fitness sessions.

Place your
free
classified
ad
in the
Bavarian
News

Vilseck Mayor Hans-Martin Schertl presents a traditional Vilseck beer mug to Col. John RisCassi, commander of the 1st Brigade/25th Infantry Division (future 2nd Cavalry Regiment) during a meet-and-greet luncheon March 27 in the city center of Vilseck. Schertl and RisCassi discussed the unit's arrival and continuing good relationships between the American and German communities.

Photo by
Franz Zeilmann



S2S paves way for new students

Story and photos
by KATHY JORDAN
Staff writer

Twenty-eight students from the Vilseck Middle/High School gathered March 23 to discuss new and improved ways to welcome incoming students to the area.

The Student 2 Student, or S2S, initiative was the result of a growing need to help new students transition into the schools with minimal difficulty.

"This is a great opportunity for students who may not even have thought about being a leader to show their skills and abilities," said school nurse Elke Zschaebitz. "Everybody has their own gift to give and this gives them an opportunity to get involved," she said of the program.

S2S was developed with the support of the Army Community and Family Support Center. The program is sponsored by VMHS and the Military Child Education Coalition—a Combined Federal Campaign-approved organization. The MCEC promotes partnerships and provides networking of military installations and their supporting school districts.

"The Vilseck students are doing teambuilding activities today to get to know each other better," said Zschaebitz. "They are modeling the behavior they will have with new kids that are coming here. We are doing this so they will be comfortable when they meet new students. We want to create a positive attitude."

There are currently 17 states with schools that have active Web sites with information on their school, activities and transition information.

The students were placed in three different groups practicing a variety of activities to help newcomers make smooth transition into the school.

"We are going to be asking the district school office for dates at the beginning of the school year," said Zschaebitz. "We will be pairing off and giving the Student 2 Student leaders a specific group of students to work with based on their interest and personalities."

"We have already had students who are planning to come in the summer

contact some of the students here," she said.

"I've asked the parents of the students who have contacted the guidance counselors the interest their children have. I have tried to pair them up with students here with the same interest," said Zschaebitz.

Students expressed their feelings about participating in the program.

VMHS junior Cortier Rogers said, "It's a great thing to do. Next year it will be a big hassle for the new students coming in with all the construction going on and it won't hurt to help them out."

Student Mary Johnston discussed her experience as a new student when she arrived at Vilseck and the impact people in the school made on her.

"I was really excited about doing something involving the school," said Johnston, a junior. "When I came here I had a hard time fitting in. I just had one or two people come up to me and talk to me. It really helped me feel more welcome, so I wanted to help the new students coming in feel welcome."

Becky Linka, also a junior, sees this as a great way to spend free time.

"I love meeting new people and showing them around. I know it's a big change coming to Europe," she said. "It is really hard to adjust here sometimes, and I think joining this program is really fun because it helps us think and feel comfortable."



S2S leaders are undergoing training to help ease the transition for new students.



Students play the Name Game, testing each other's memory on information shared about each other.

Students made buttons from magazine pictures that best described their personality.

"I am looking for stuff that suits me in magazines," said Sophomore Nicole Lewis. "I am looking for the types of clothes I wear that I love and hairstyles and shoes. It will show people who I am and what I like. I am a fun person and I am easy to get to know."

Junior Angela Odom sees her button as a way to show how much all of the students have in common.

"I am cutting out a flower with a pattern on it," she said. "I like the pattern in it, the way it is combined with everything and not just one solid color."

"I am an open-minded person, and I want people to know I have no

bias," said Odom. "Usually when you look at someone you judge them by the way they look or the way they walk, and I don't want people to think that way about me or want them to think that way about other people."

Freshman Davi Mills said he did not feel uncomfortable after leaving the middle school and coming to the high school, but she is aware of the discomfort that moving to a new school can cause.

"When I came here in the ninth grade, I already knew people," she said. "I just want to make sure it is easier for the new kids coming in to feel comfortable and get to know other students as well as I do."

John Watsek thinks sports are a universal language that everyone can relate too.

"I am looking for soccer balls and other sports pictures," said Watsek. "I am not sure what impression it will give, but I really like sports and playing them. It is what I do almost every day besides my classes."

Zschaebitz said her vision of S2S is simple.

"I want them to feel like this is their home," she said. "This is their second family away from the states. If they support each other and get to know each other maybe their school experience will be a more enjoyable one."

For information on becoming a S2S Leader, contact Zschaebitz or a S2S Leader at DSN 476-3238 or CIV 09662-83-3238 or by calling DSN 475-1770 / CIV 09641-83-1770.

Humanitarian reconstruction, security upgrades key mission during deployment

Continued from Page 1

During the welcome home ceremony, the Army's 1st Armored Division Band played American and German patriotic songs, and infants born during their parents deployments were presented "little Wolverine" certificates.

Brig. Gen. Michael Tucker, the assistant division commander support for the 1st Arm. Div.

hailed the unit's character during his speech.

"It is important to note that the discipline you displayed daily downrange has not been lost here at your home station," he said.

"Throughout your deployment, reintegration, and current transformation, the 94th and 535th have continued to maintain the high standards of conduct which were instrumental in your success while deployed."

Family members and select personnel stood and were recognized for outstanding support and the sacrifices they made during the deployment.

"Thank you for all that you have done to support these great Soldiers and their family members," said Tucker. "Also, thank you for the hugs and kisses when they returned in January."

18th CSB Soldiers receive 6 Purple Hearts, 11 Bronze Star Medals, log over 200 convoys

Continued from Page 1

The ceremony marked the end of the 18th Combat Support Battalion's one-year deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 11th HET hauled oversized and overweight loads during 264 missions, logging 1.3 million miles during the deployment. The unit supported the 1st and 2nd Marine Expeditionary Forces, 3rd ACR, 3rd Infantry Division, 48th BCT, and the Iraqi National Guard.

Six Purple Hearts and 11 Bronze Star Medals were earned by 11th HET Soldiers. The unit deployed January, 11, 2005, and redeployed Dec. 21, 2005

"I was not in command when these great Soldiers departed," said Boyle, "but they did a tremendous job. I am most proud of the family members. What a great group of husbands and wives and kids. They kept the home fires burning."

Returning Soldiers enjoyed the ceremony and were grateful to be home.

"This ceremony means a lot to me," said 41st Trans. Co. 1st Sgt. Rodney Morgan. "We went downrange and supported our country. To bring a unit down twice and bring them all back in one piece means a lot."

"It feels good," said Sgt. 1st Class Curtis Bouldin of the 41st Trans. Co. "There is no place

like the land of the free and the home of the brave. I love those 13 stripes and those 50 stars."

Many of the redeployed Soldiers were looking forward to catching up on family time.

"The time I spent away from my son, I am trying to make up right now doing things with him and basically enjoying life," said 41st Trans. Co.'s Staff Sgt. Camilla Diggs.

"Being home is great we went through a lot of hard times down there. Most of us had been there twice, said Staff Sgt. Charles Ball of 11th HET. "It's really great being home, Soldiers being here with their families, being back in the community."



Garrison Commander Col. Brian Boyle recognize 18th CSB spouses during the March 29 Welcome Home Ceremony.

Photo by Reggie Dean

Sports complex a quality-of-life triumph

Continued from Page 1

"The fitness center serves as a symbol to our Soldiers and their families that quality of life is a priority that our leadership takes very seriously," he said.

"We always say we enlist a Soldier, but we reenlist a family," said Preston. "Quality-of-life initiatives are incredibly important to retaining the cream of the crop."

"We must first remember that Soldiers stay in the Army for one of three reasons. First is the command climate fostered by the unit's leaders," he said.

"Second is job satisfaction, which is more than just the enjoyment a Soldier gets from doing his or her occupational specialty, but from being a Soldier."

"The third reason a Soldier reenlists is quality of life," said Preston. "That is where this great facility makes its biggest impact."

The new sports complex offers patrons a wide variety of services, including:

- a physical fitness area (Nautilus and other cardio equipment; weightlifting benches, etc.)
- three training rooms for spinning, exercise/aerobics, wrestling or boxing
- a two-story locker room with sauna

- a two-story rock climbing wall
- 28 televisions and sound systems
- a three-lane indoor running track on the upper level and a double basketball court with room for 850 spectators

The facility's outdoor amenities include:

- softball fields with referee tower and multi-purpose, all-weather sports field
- a track and field arena
- a one-mile jogging track

Garrison Grafenwoehr Commander Col. Brian Boyle compared the facility to commercial fitness clubs in the United States.

"There are very few facilities anywhere in the U.S. or overseas that can match the variety of equipment, skill of our fitness trainers, or the size of the new physical fitness center at Grafenwoehr," said Boyle.

"A quick Internet check of high-end stateside commercial gyms and fitness clubs will quickly reveal how much money Soldiers and family members will save on monthly fees by using the new center at Graf," he said.

Boyle said the new facility will provide the same level of services that stateside Soldiers and families are privy to.

"Stateside Soldiers and family members have access to a wide variety of gyms and other recre-



Photo by Reinhard Mederer

The new sports complex offers patrons a wide variety of services.

ational activities both on and off base," he explained. "Here in Europe, those choices are much more limited. That's why our IMA-EURO garrisons have to provide the best possible on-base facilities like gyms, libraries, and other MWR and community resources."

The fitness facility, located on Gettysburg Avenue on the site of the former Camp Tunisia, is open Mon., Tues., Wed., and Fri., 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Thu. 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends.



Photo by Sue Bluhm, MWR

Patrons work out March 23, the first day the facility opened to the public.



Courtesy photo

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Preston tours the fitness center March 22.



Photo by Reinhard Mederer

The bleachers surrounding the indoor courts seat up to 850 people.

U.S. gas prices determine overseas rates

Continued from Page 1

For the four weeks ending March 21, the DoE average price for all grades of gasoline and diesel fuel increased over the previous four-week average, which ended Feb. 20.

The April 2006 sell prices reflect the following average changes per gallon, by grade:

• Regular	+\$.058
• Mid-grade	+ \$.050
• Premium	+ \$.044
• Diesel	+ \$.055

In overseas locations, the unique incremental dispensing costs by country are added to the monthly average.

These incremental costs include, where applicable, costs related to the gas coupon management program as well as labor costs, depreciation and other miscellaneous expenses associated with providing gasoline to military customers overseas.

AAFES representative Debbie Byerly said AAFES has a dual mission to not only provide quality merchandise and services, but also generate earnings to supplement appropriated funds for the support of Army and Air Force morale, welfare and recreation programs.

"AAFES, along with its military board of directors, worked diligently to craft a policy that accomplishes both objectives," she said.

Community bids fond farewell to Lienert

Continued from Page 1

Staudacher presented Kargl's wife, Rosemarie, with a bouquet of flowers during the ceremony.

Col. Johann Stadler, commander of the German army's Regional Defense Command 66, Lower Bavaria and Upper Palatinate, passed the garrison commander duties from Lienert to Kargl.

Boyle presented Lienert with a farewell present and commander's coin for excellent cooperation and the expansion of German-American relations during his tenure.

Grafenwoehr Mayor Helmuth Wächter characterized Franz Lienert as a joyful person who, in addition to his military duties at the training area, had the chance to pursue his love of hunting in the area.

Wächter extended his welcome to the new commander and said he was looking forward to continued good relations in the future.

The regional chairman of the German Army Association, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Klaus Blum welcomed the new commander with a set of commander's office utilities.

The ceremony ended with the playing of the national anthems of the United States, the Free State of Bavaria, and Germany.



Photo by Sgt. Maj. Gerald Morgenstern

Incoming German Army Commander Lt. Col. Dieter Kargl signs the Golden Book of the City of Grafenwoehr as Brig. Gen. Erich Staudacher, Grafenwoehr Mayor Helmuth Wächter, and Lt. Col. Franz Lienert look on.

Vilseck teams lose season opener to Hanau

Story and photos
by KATHY JORDAN

All four squads of the Vilseck Falcons soccer team lost to the Hanau Panthers during a March 25 season opener in Hanau, Germany.

The Falcons faced off against the Panthers at the high school in New Argonner Kasern.

The first game was lost 2-0 by the Falcons varsity boys team. The score was remained 0-0 at halftime, until fancy footwork by Hanau's Corey Lane outmaneuvered the Falcons defense. Lane scored both goals to give Hanau the victory.

The Falcon's Eric Ruzicka managed 17 saves, and Jose Leon and Timothy Bruce each had 1. Five shot attempts were made by the Falcon's Timothy Bruce, 3 by Erik Bidinger, and 1 by Sean Anderson.

Hanau's Dylan Baker managed 9 saves and Adam Azcarraga had 1 assist.

The Lady Panthers defeated the Lady Falcons 6-0 during the girls varsity game. The Panthers led 3-0 at halftime, doubling their score by the end of the game, thanks in part to the quick foot action of Hanau's Kyri Bye-Nagel. The Lady Falcons contin-



Vilseck player Rosa Leon keeps the ball away from Hanau defender.

ued to play aggressively, but were unable to make up ground against the Panthers.

Vilseck's Latoya Brunson had 8 saves and Jennifer Clark had 5. Vilseck's Kathy DelaRosa and Sab-

rina Gilg each had 2 shot attempts each. Shamyra Coleman and Katherine Deeter each had 1.

Hanau's Emily Morris had 5 saves, Kyri Bye-Nagel had 4 goals, and Katherine Geiger and Fei Oloi each



Vilseck players set up a wall against a penalty kick by Hanau's Adam Azcarraga.

had 1. Bye-Nagel had 1 assist.

Vilseck's junior varsity team lost 6-0 to the Panthers, who were sitting on 3 points at halftime.

During the second half, Hanau's Gerald Baeza and David Butler increased the pressure for a win.

Kollin Jordan had 3 saves and Sean Anderson had 2 for Vilseck, while Timothy Ray had 1 shot attempt.

Three of Hanau's goals were made

by Gerald Baeza. David Butler had 2, and Doug Atkins had 1. TJ Shulson had 1 assist.

The girls junior varsity from Vilseck lost 2-3 to Hanau despite being able to score in both halves of the game.

Vilseck's Brunson had 6 saves. Stevi Hood and Sarah Klein each had 1 goal. Two shot attempts were made by Megan Richardson. Jill Aviles had 1.

Do you know your Army sports history?

17. Although the conclusion of the competitions at Pershing Stadium, on the afternoon of July 6, did not bring to an end the complete official program of the Games, the date marked the summary of two brilliant weeks in which sport history was made. When General Pershing awarded the medals to the various winners of events, amid the applauding of the crowds he put the seal of official approval on a sports gathering unique in the history of athletics.¹⁷

18. Of the 24 separate events listed in the program, the US military athletes won first place for their country in twelve and second in seven men. AEF entrants making clean sweeps of all three places in five events and in a sixth having three of four men who succeeded in placing. Again in the service shooting events, the AEF was successful with both rifle and pistol, taking four first places. Other first places were gained by the US in baseball, basketball, boxing, prize jumping with horses, swimming, tug-of-war and catch-as-catch wrestling. America's notable success in winning first and second places in so many varied events was due of course in no small degree to the preponderance of entries and to the consistent preliminary training, not only immediately prior to the Games, but also in numerous athletic competitions fostered in the AEF by YMCA experts Army officers before the Inter-Allied Classic were undertaken. The concluding ceremony of the Games took place on Sunday July 6, when the medals were presented by General Pershing, the allied flags lowered and the French standard left to float alone over Stade Pershing – now the official property of the French nation – an abiding monument to the unique sport carnival in athletic history.¹⁸

19. The Army Sports Program as we know it spent its infancy, formative years and matured under the auspices of the Adjutant General's Department and the Adjutant General Corps. There are gaps in the information we were able to obtain from the National Archives and the Center for Military History, but we were informed by both institutions that theirs is the best and most complete information available.

20. During the Revolutionary War there was an Adjutant General of the Army (TAG), in fact the first one was General Horatio Gates 1775 – 1776, but after the military forces were disbanded in 1783 no provision was made for that officer until the passage of an act of March 5, 1792, which provided for an adjutant who was to do also the duty of inspector. An act of March 3, 1813, established an Adjutant General's Department and an Inspector General's department under one head who was known as the Adjutant and Inspector General. Separate heads for the two departments were provided by an act of March 2, 1821. The organization of the Adjutant General's Office has been changed by various acts of Congress and has expanded and contracted to meet the changing needs created by wars and their cessation. Its existence has been continuous since 1821 except for a brief period, 1904 - 7 when its functions were combined with those of the Record and Pension Office to form a new office designated the Military Secretary's Office. 19 The history of the internal organization of the Adjutant General's Office is a complex one. Divisions were organized from time to time as the need arose to handle specific functions, some continued for brief periods and went out of existence, some were redesignated or consolidated with other offices.

Pick up the April 19 issue to read more of your Army history.



The Dexheim Army community boxers came in first with 46 points.

Boxing championship proves hard hitting competition for Soldiers

Story and photos
by SHANNON HILL
Staff writer

Novice division boxers gave heavyweight effort during the open championship held at the Grafenwoehr field house last month.

Eighteen competitors from four installations in Germany entered the brightly lit boxing ring March 18 with one thing in mind—punching their opponents' lights out to capture the title and bragging rights.

The crowd cheered as, one by one, the opponents faced off to earn points that would be added to their team's total.

Dexheim Army community came in first with nine boxers and 46 points.

Second place went to the four Grafenwoehr/Vilseck boxers who claimed 18 points.

Bamberg came in third place with three boxers and 16 points, and Ramstein Air Base rounded out the competition with two boxers and 10 points.

Trained judges and referees

monitored the bouts.

Individual winners were:

In the women's 139-pound division—Aida Pence of Bamberg, defeated Grafenwoehr's Lydia Theiss, 3-2.

In the women's 165-pound division—Chandra Lecompte of Ramstein won by the forfeit of Dexheim's Mona Michelson, in the 59th second of round one.

In the 139-pound men's division—Arias Gilberto of Vilseck was forced to forfeit to Dexheim's Alex Pereira due to a bloody nose.

Joseph Neck of Dexheim was also required to forfeit to a fellow boxer from Dexheim—Joseph Hanshew. Michael Dunn of Dexheim was defeated, 2-3, by Andres De La Cruz of Bamberg.

In the 152-pound division—

Christian Cardenas of Vilseck defeated Jeffrey Williams of Bamberg in a 5-0 shutout victory.

Cardenas, who said he is inspired by his coaches and

uncle, a former boxing pro, gave it his all to pull off the win.

"I put my 120 percent into it," he said. "He gave me a pretty good fight... (but) where there's a will, there's a way."

In the 178-pound division—the referee awarded the win to Adam Ward of Dexheim over Cedric Redus, also of Dexheim.

After Ramstein boxer Jake Green's nose would not stop bleeding, he was forced to for-

feit the round to Saiyd Muhammad of Dexheim.

The 201-pound heavyweight Jacob Collen of Vilseck forfeited to Michael Dixon.

Vilseck/Grafenwoehr coach Staff Sgt. Joe Lewis said the community is invited to attend the spectator sport.

"They are highly encouraged to come out and support the fighters," he said.

For more information, call DSN 430-4512.



Eighteen competitors from four installations in Germany entered the novice division championship at the Grafenwoehr field house March 18.

Culinary arts class learns tasty lessons at Café-Konditorei

Story and photos by
KATHY JORDAN
Staff writer

Students from the Vilseck Middle/High School's culinary arts class were treated to a behind-the-scenes look at the techniques used by the Café-Konditorei last week.

The sweets shop, located on the top of a hill neighboring Edelsfeld, is a family-owned business that began as a small café in 1970 and has continued to grow to its present size.

For the last 14 years Dieter Heldrich has run the shop, which specializes in cakes, tortes, and chocolate confections.

Hundreds of different types of candy and other confections are available to cure the most insatiable sweet tooth. The shop's signature treat, however is the banana crème.

But whatever the treat, Heldrich said the confection process can be a tricky one.

"It's all about temperature," he said, stirring chocolate that would later become truffles. "Too hot is not good; too cold is not good. It has to be just right."

For those who are interested in the business, Heldrich offered the following advice: "Make sure it is interesting to you and you enjoy it," he said. "That is the most important ingredient for any profession."

"The biggest problem I see today is that people are more concerned with



Vilseck Middle/High School students learn the art of confection at the family-owned Café Konditorei in Edelsfeld.

the pay check, than having pride in their job and their product," said Heldrich.

Unlike the pre-dawn hours of bakery workers, the day begins at the Café Konditorei sweet shop at around 7 a.m.

VMHS students looked on as Heldrich, offering advice and insight, worked confectionary magic on the various chocolate and cakes. The students learned techniques to make the mouthwatering sweets more presentable for customers.

He also showed them how to make decorations with marzipan, a German almond-flavored sweet paste, before crafting a chocolate Easter bunny as a gift for the class.

Culinary arts teacher Judy Folsom said she learned a lot at the sweet shop and hoped the students did too.

"I have never seen the way they actually made the truffles or the way they made designs on the truffles," said Folsom. "I learned a new trick."

Some students were inspired to

hone their cooking skills after high school.

"I like the process they use to stuff the truffles and cap and coat them," said student Cody Fry. "I am going to a culinary institute after I finish high school."

Student Michael Gresham said, "When I get older I want to be a chef,

and the main area I want to focus on is making chocolates and candies.

"I want to go to culinary arts school after high school," he said. "I just love seeing the way things are made and designed. It really gets my attention."

Others enjoyed the creative aspects of the visit.

"It was fun because I learned how to design different things and the tools I would need to do it," said student David Ferrer. "I like the way he made the Easter bunny and the way it tasted. I want to open a restaurant one day. It will also help me when I get out of the house so I will be able to cook for myself."

"I now know how to make chocolate design," said Alannah Babauta. "I like the little instruments they used. I thought it was all done by hand."

The cultural exchange between the students and the German community confirmed, once and for all, that sweets are a universal language to be shared by all.



Hundreds of candy varieties are made from scratch at the family-sweet shop.



Handmade decorations decorate many of the shop's treats.

a day in the Life

Preaching, praying, or counseling: Chaplaincy a top-notch profession

Story and photos by **SHANNON HILL**
Staff writer

The job of a chaplain? Too easy, right? Not so, sayeth those who do the job.

The duties of an Army chaplain extend far beyond the spiritual insight they are known for providing.

Chaplains must complete four years of college, three years of seminary, have a minimum of two years of practical experience, and be endorsed by their denominational group.

And that's *before* they qualify as an Army chaplain.

But the lengthy education process is well worth it for many who consider the job one of the most rewarding professions in the Army.

"We get to celebrate, and we get to cry with people during their happiest hours and their saddest times," said Grafenwoehr's Chaplain (Lt. Col.) William Barbee.

Ultimately, there is no such thing as a "typical" day for a chaplain.

Barbee, an Illinois native who has been in the Army for nearly two decades, laughed at the thought of a typical day before verbally cataloging his plans for the day.

Before the afternoon newspaper interview, he said his morning was blocked off for counseling sessions, followed by meetings, more counseling sessions, and a visit with a hospital patient.

Barbee said that chaplains are trained to help patients, family and friends deal with illnesses and death, two of the less favorable but necessary ingredients of the job.

Chaplains also accompany death notification teams and notify family members when a Soldier dies.

Barbee, who has accompanied several notification teams, said notifying a family member of a Soldier's death is never an easy mission, but being there to offer emotional support is as important as any of the other chaplaincy duties.

And to help prevent other deaths, the Army chaplaincy teaches suicide prevention and intervention.

Barbee also teaches couples communication, marriage counseling, and family life.

Barbee explained that anyone, regardless of their religious beliefs, are welcome and encouraged to receive assistance provided by a chaplain. Services are offered by appointment, on a walk-in basis, or via phone calls retrieved from



After a busy day, Chaplain Barbee can be found kneeling at a pew in search of his own spiritual comfort and solace.



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Barbee gives advice to a Soldier as they sit in the comfort of his private office.

the 24-hour emergency hotline.

"As chaplains, we serve all Soldiers, regardless of faith, background, or practice...(It's) not a requirement to be of my faith to see me," said Barbee.

Because of the religious diversity of service members, Barbee said it would be impossible for one chaplain to serve the faiths of each individual. Most Army chaplains are Catholic or Protestant, and there are currently about eight Jewish chaplains, or rabbis, currently in the Army.

To ensure that all faiths are served, when an individual requests the religious services from a chaplain of another faith, the chaplain is required to help the Soldier locate a chaplain or religious leader of his faith.

"We may not be able to perform the service requested, but we do act as a coordinator to put them [the Soldier] in touch with the right resources," Barbee assured.

And just as there are many religious faiths, there are many reasons people turn to chaplains for help. Depending on the situation, chaplains provide follow-up services with the individuals

they assist.

Many Soldiers find comfort in the fact that chaplains understand first-hand what they are going through. Chaplains are required to meet the same Army standards and experience the same emotional and physical strain as other service members.

The only exception, he said, is weapons qualification. Chaplains are not authorized to carry rifles and are not trained or qualified in weaponry.

"We're in the field, in the war zone with the Soldiers," said Barbee.

Other unique aspects of the chaplaincy are performing sacraments, such as baptism and marriage.

Regardless of what sacrament or service he provides, or whether he is preaching or visiting the sick, Barbee said Army ministry is a uniquely satisfying experience.

"You get to see more of the real life in the Army and really get involved in people's lives," he said. "You can get tank rides, helicopter rides, and jump out of airplanes. You don't get that in the regular parish."

Community Spotlight

What's Happening

Hohenfels Briefs

Martial arts instructor offers adult Taekwon-Do

Join Taekwon-Do classes for adults every Sunday from 1-2:30 p.m. at the Hohenfels Post Gym. Instructor, Georg Kampitas, is an internationally qualified martial arts instructor and the founder of the International Black Belt Association. He has been teaching Taekwon-Do classes for over 40 years. Call to sign up at DSN 466-2883 CIV 09472-83-2883.

Hohenfels Box Run set April 29

Choose from a half marathon, 10K, or 3K Fun Run. The first 250 participants to register by April 26 will win a free T-shirt. Runners may also register the day of the race from 7-8:15 a.m. in the Fest Tent for an additional fee. The race starts at 8:30 a.m. and takes you right into "The Box." For more information or to register, visit www.firstinbattle-ausa.com, e-mail firstinbattle-ausa@hotmail.com, or call DSN 466-2224.

Hohenfels Spring Bazaar set Friday, Saturday, Sunday at gym

The spring bazaar will be held at the post gym, Bldg. 88. Buy wine, cheese, crafts, furniture, clocks and much more! Friday and Saturday 10 a.m.–8 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Free ESPN Magazines available to service members

Free copies of ESPN Magazine are available at the Hohenfels Fitness Center. New issues will be available every two weeks.

Auditions set for 'Little Shop of Horrors' Cast and Crew

Mr. The community production of 'Little Shop of Horrors' is set for June 2-4 at Hohenfels' Community Activities Center. The cast requires three men (Seymour, Mr. Mushnik, Orin, and the Voice of the plant), four women (Audrey, Crystal, Ronnette, and Chiffon) and one person is needed to operate Audrey II.

Those who audition will be required to sing a song from the show or one of their own choosing, and must read scenes from the show.

The following are also needed: drummer, pianist, guitar, bass, vocal director, technical director, stage hands, set construction crew, light technician, sound technician, computer operator, costumes, makeup, props crew, house manager, and ushers.

For more information or to tryout, call Paul Aciri at 466-2726. Auditions are scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday and Friday at the Community Activities Center, Bldg. 40. The show will require an eight-week rehearsal schedule.

Kuemmertsbruck Red Devils seeks Americans for men's tackle football team

Four more Americans are needed to fill spots on a German-American men's tackle football team. Minimum age to play is 18. There is a 120 Euro fee and two passport photos are needed. Practices are on Thursday nights and Saturday afternoons. The season begins May 6. Contact Coach Miller at coach.miller@red-devils.de or Tomas Haller at Thomas. Haller@Red-Devils.de for more information. Limited equipment from team is available. Seeking skilled positions such as QB, TE, WR, RB, LB, DB, DL, OL etc. Visit www.red-devils.de for more information.

Central Texas College lists job openings

Stop by the Hohenfels Education Center for information about the following job openings:

Test Examiner: The Test Examiner is a classified position directly responsible to a Local Program Coordinator. The essential functions of this position include the following services: administer, score, order, inventory and control a wide variety of educational and military tests. Adherence to testing instructions and test security is paramount.

Army Learning Center Operator (Substitute): The Operator is a classified position directly responsible to a Local Program Coordinator. The essential functions of this position include the following services: maintaining the Army Learning Center Library/Computer Lab, all aspects of support to Active Duty as well as family members with regards to Army publications, assist students with Military Correspondence in the Computer Lab.

Grafenwoehr/Vilseck Briefs

Parking spaces limited at Burger King due to construction

Due to ongoing construction, motorists will have limited parking in Grafenwoehr's Burker King/Bowling Alley parking lot April 6-7. The parking lot and the Burger King drive-through lane will be accessible at all times.

ACAP offering briefing, resume labs, transition assistance

Transition assistance events offered to separating Soldiers and their spouses.

Preparation Briefings are held daily by appointment, except Thursdays.

Transition Assistance Program Workshop (TAP) set Tuesday and April 12 and April 25-26

Resume Writing Lab (civilian-type resumes) scheduled April 19

VA Briefing set May 3. Call DNS 476-2055 to sign up.

Want to buy or sell something? Place free ad in Bavarian News

All valid ID cardholders can place free ads in the Bavarian News. Fill out the form at <http://www.rlehner.de/trainingtimes/freeclass.htm>. Be sure to include a contact phone number. The free service cannot be used for personal or public businesses.

Bavarian Arts Guild presents 'The Foreigner' Friday, Saturday

The Bavarian Arts Guild will present the play "The Foreigner" by Larry Shue at the Vilseck Middle/High School at

7 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students/children.

Community Bank Closings

All Community Bank Banking Centers in Germany will be closed for the Easter season: Good Friday, April 14 and Easter Monday, April 17.

National Alcohol Screening Day tomorrow at Vilseck PX

National Alcohol Screening Day is an annual event that provides information about alcohol and health as well as free, anonymous screening for alcohol-use disorders. The program is designed to provide outreach, screening, and education about alcohol's effects on health for the general public.

Friday last day to turn in forms for Summer Enrichment

Schools are accepting registration for Summer Enrichment program for grades K-8. Contact your local school for details and forms, due by Friday. DoDDS is supporting a four-week, half-day "Summer Enrichment" for Space-Required DoDDS students, grades K-8. This program will feature a variety of engaging, theme-related activities that emphasize math and language arts. It is not a remedial program and is designed to support and reinforce student learning through fun and engaging Transportation and lunch will not be provided. Classes begin July 5, but advance registration is required.

Unit Fire Warden training offered Friday

The USAG Grafenwoehr Fire Department offers UFW training on the following dates and locations:

Grafenwoehr Fire Station, 1 p.m. Additional classes will be held May 19, June 23, July 21, Aug. 18, Sept. 15, Oct. 13, Nov. 17, and Dec. 8.

For more information, call Gerhard Biersack at DSN 475-8909 or e-mail Gerhard.biersack@us.army.mil.

Grafenwoehr Military History group meets monthly

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m., Bldg. 445 (Grafenwoehr Library).

Scheduled Topics include:

Today – The Gothic Line Campaign: WWII-Italy 1944, presented by CSM Jeff Miller

May 3 – Andrew Jackson and the Creek Indian Wars, presented by Col. Jim Kennedy

Jun 7 – Gaijin Shogun, McArthur as the Father of Post War Japan, presented by Robert Snell

SAEDA training set April 27-28

The Grafenwoehr and Vilseck communities will conduct the third Subversion and Espionage Directed against the Army (SAEDA) class. This class is a mandatory annual requirement for all DOD personnel including military, AF/NAF (both U.S. and LN). Training will begin promptly at the indicated times as follows:

- April 27 – Vilseck Post Theater: 1 p.m.–2:30 p.m. U.S. personnel, 2:30 p.m.–4 p.m. – LN personnel
- April 28 – Grafenwoehr's Tower Theater: 9–10:30 a.m. – U.S. personnel 10:30 a.m.–noon – LN personnel

Free Entrepreneur Workshop set April 27-29

Are you interested in starting your own business? The Gründerzentrum (Business Development Agency) in Grafenwoehr offers a free three-day Business Start-Up Seminar April 27-29 from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. The workshop is designed for English-speaking participants who would like to start their own business or become self-employed. The workshop will help participants develop business ideas and will focus on the following:

- Development of a business concept
- Personality of the entrepreneur
- Structure of a business / marketing plan
- Types of private enterprises
- Legal requirements and prerequisites
- Competitor analysis
- Marketing and marketing mix
- Sources of industry-specific statistics

The free workshop can be supplemented with additional coaching or consultation sessions to aid with individual areas of interest. Those are also free.

To register, e-mail g.v.murphy@t-online.de with detailed contact information (full name, cell phone, work phone, e-mail).

AWAG annual conference set at Edelweiss May 11-15

American Women's Activities, Germany, is preparing for its annual conference. The four-day conference is held at Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch, Germany. The AWAG mission is to train, strengthen, and connect volunteers, their organizations, and their communities. For more information, contact Alicia Faddis at hessen1@awag.us or your local spouses' club.

Local Flea Market Listing

Flea markets are held every Saturday in Wuerzburg, BayWa Baumarkt, Nurnbergerstrasse – near the US Post / BMW dealership Metz, France (Exhibition Centre, Metz East) Saturdays from 6 a.m.–noon, Sunday from 7 a.m.–6 p.m. Visit <http://tourisme.mairie-metz.fr> for more information.

Grafenwoehr Daily Mass Schedule During Lent

Daily Mass will be held 7a.m. in the Grafenwoehr Chapel today and Friday.

Grafenwoehr/Vilseck/Hohenfels Lent and Easter Chapel Schedule

Today – Parish Council Meeting at Vilseck, 5:30 p.m.
Friday – Stations of the Cross at Vilseck, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday – Confirmation at Hohenfels, 4 p.m.
April 13–Holy Thursday at Grafenwoehr, 6 p.m.
April 14–Good Friday at Grafenwoehr, 6 p.m.
April 15–Easter Vigil at Grafenwoehr, 6 p.m.
April 16–Easter Sunday Mass Only at Vilseck, 11 a.m.
No Mass at Graf

Amberg's St. Marien Klinikum (hospital) has English Web site

Go to <http://www.klinikum-st-marien.de/eng/clinics.htm> for English links to a renowned professional medical staff of 115 doctors and 650 nurses, providing care on many fronts, including orthopedics, neurology, pediatrics, nursery care, and more.

State primaries nearing, register to vote

Make sure you are registered to vote. Registration forms (SF-76, federal post card applications) and more voting information can be obtained at <http://www.fvap.gov> or by contacting the USAG Grafenwoehr voting assistance officer at DSN 475-6753.

Share culture and experience, join Your Local Kontakt Club

Learn about Bavarian customs, traditions and lifestyle and share yours. The Kontakt Club is a great opportunity to meet fellow American and German friends, play games, and have fun. Check out their current events online at <http://www.grafenwoehr.de/home/index.asp?sid=&tid=26&topnavid=7&navid=0&bid=1696>

For information on the Vilseck Kontakt Club, call Melvin Gonzales at DSN 475-7441.

The Amberg Kontakt Club meets at the Hubertushof in Amberg. Contact Joe Roberts at COMM 09645-601294.

For more information about Kontakt Clubs in the area, call Franz Zeilmann at USAG Grafenwoehr Public Affairs, DSN 475-8885 or COMM 09641-83-8885.

Army chief of staff announces general officer assignments:

- Brig. Gen. Frank J. Grass, deputy director, Army National Guard, National Guard Bureau, Washington, D.C., to director of Mobilization and Reserve Component Affairs, United States European Command, Germany.
- Brig. Gen. Carla G. Hawley-Bowland, commanding general, European Regional Medical Command/lead agent, TRICARE Europe/command surgeon, United States Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany, to commanding general, Tripler Army Medical Center/Pacific Regional Medical Command/United States Army Pacific Surgeon/lead agent, TRICARE Pacific, Honolulu, Hawaii. In addition to this assignment, Brig. Gen. Hawley-Bowland will assume the responsibilities as chief, United States Army Medical Corps.

Bridge distance to your loved ones with new Video Messenger

Since 1986, the Secretary of Defense has set aside April as the Month of the Military Child to recognize and honor the youngest member of the military family and the sacrifices they make to accommodate military life.

MWR is introducing the new Video Messenger to children and Soldiers. Video Messengers are portable recording studios, now available for children, families, and Soldiers to record themselves prior to deployment. It is also an ideal means for children and family members to communicate with deployed Soldiers.

The program is available by appointment only to eliminate unnecessary waits. For more information or to make an appointment, visit or call the Grafenwoehr library at DSN 475-1740.

Grafenwoehr Library April Events

Military Child Karaoke Competition on Tuesday, 5–6:30 p.m.

Zen Meditation April 20, 6 p.m.

Nurnberg Trial Documentary Night on April 25, 6 p.m.

Nurnberg Trial Road Trip April 29

For more information, call DSN 475-1740, COMM 09641-83-1740.

Spring American Red Cross 2006 Course Schedule

- Monday and Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.–noon, Babysitter's Training, Vilseck Office, \$35.00
- April 13-14, 1–4:30 p.m., Babysitter's Training, Grafenwoehr Office, \$35.00

- May 2, Volunteer Orientation – Vilseck
 - May 6, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Adult CPR & First Aid, Grafenwoehr Office, \$30.00
 - May 8-10, 3:30–6 p.m., Babysitter's Training, Vilseck Office, \$35.00
 - June 10, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Adult, Infant, & Child CPR, Grafenwoehr Office, \$30.00
 - June 12-14, 3:30–6 p.m., Babysitter's Training, Vilseck Office, \$35.00
 - June 13, 9:30–11:30 a.m., Volunteer Orientation, Vilseck
- Pre-payment is required for all Health and Safety classes. Please stop by the Vilseck or Grafenwoehr office to make payment by check or money order. Call DSN 476-1760 for more information.

Vendors prohibited from distributing advertisement on post without permission

Post personnel and residents are reminded that if they sign vendors onto the installation to do business with them, they must stay with the vendor at all times and escort the vendor back to the gate at the close of the business.

Per Army Regulation 360-1, vendors are prohibited from distributing flyers on post without permission. Anyone wishing to do so should contact the MWR Marketing or Public Affairs Office. Soldiers, family members, civilians, and employees (U.S. or LN) may not distribute flyers, booklets, or advertisements to the Commissary, quarters, AAFES, Post Office/CMR, or any other place on post for the vendors.

Childers Road intersection blocked due to construction

Due to ongoing construction, Childers Road will be completely blocked April 12-13.

New ID Card Service Hours

The new customer service hours for the ID cards sections in Vilseck, Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels are as follows:

Vilseck and Grafenwoehr:

Monday to Friday: 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. for walk-ins; 1-4 p.m. for appointments only.

Closed on American holidays.

Hohenfels:

Monday through Friday: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for walk-ins.

Closed on American Holidays

Motorcycle group meeting tomorrow at Grafenwoehr

Are you dreaming about the fantastic motorcycle riding here in Bavaria? Meet fellow riders, both German and American, at an informal gathering tomorrow at 6 p.m. at the Thai restaurant in Grafenwoehr, across the street from the Schwimmbad.

Stay for dinner and enjoy yourself, make friends and renew friendships. Spouses and cars are welcome.

Warrant Officer recruiting briefing set April 12

Want to make a difference? Want to advance your career? Want to stay in a selected career field? Want better retirement pay for your family? Become a warrant officer.

Briefings will be held as follows:

Vilseck at 10 a.m., Vilseck Education Center (Bldg. 223), local POC: David Baker, e-mail: billy.baker1@graf.eur.army.mil, DSN 476-2457

Grafenwoehr at 2 p.m., Grafenwoehr Education Center (Bldg. 623N), local POC: Manny Iglesias, e-mail: manny.iglesias@graf.eur.army.mil, DSN 475-6786

Contact CW3 McClinton at 475-7606 or e-mail jared.mcclinton@us.army.mil

Vilseck Road Closure Announcement

The roads at Vilseck around Bldg. 324, near the post office/CMR will be closed through May 5 for sewer line replacement.

OCS Board reconvening in May

The 7th JMTC Officer Candidate School Board will be conducted May 19 at 8 a.m., Bldg 621. Soldier packets are due to the G1 no later than May 1. Ensure all packets are thoroughly reviewed prior to submission. Call Staff Sgt. Fields at DSN 475-6952 for more information.

Tips for Preventing the Spread of Disease

Four Simple Things You Can Do To Protect Yourself And Your Family

COVER YOUR COUGH AND SNEEZE

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue
- Put your tissue in the trash can
- If you do not have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands



WASH YOUR HANDS

- Wash hands with warm, soapy water for at least 10-15 seconds OR use a hand sanitizer after:
 - Coughing or sneezing
 - Using the bathroom
 - Caring for a sick person
 - Handling garbage or animal waste



KEEP LIVING AND WORK AREAS CLEAN

- Clean areas with household detergents (dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent, hand soap).
- Sanitize surfaces with bleach or alcohol



KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

- Avoid crowds
- Limit your travel
- Travel to and from work during off-peak hours, if possible
- Work from home, if possible



High school reopens in Nangarhar province

Story and photo by
Marine Capt. DAN HUVANE
American Forces Press Service

Hundreds of people gathered March 25 to celebrate the renovation of Agam High School in the Pachir wa Agam district in Afghanistan's Nangarhar province. Coalition forces funded the \$25,000 project.

Mohammed Sadiq, the school's primary headmaster, welcomed district Sub-governor Sayeed Rahman, other officials and faculty to the festive event, along with national and border police officers, and U.S. soldiers and Marines.

"Today, I am happy to see so many children at this school from this mountain area," Sadiq said through an interpreter. "This is the witness that we can show to the people of this district and the world, that Americans are not here to destroy, as the enemies of Afghanistan say. They have come from many places far away, and they give their funds to help us.

"We want our children to be like other countries' children, with chairs to sit on, books to read, and a roof over their heads," he continued.

"With your help and cooperation, the children of Afghanistan can be more like them."

The project's chief engineer, Abdul Khalil, implored the students to take care of their school, as funds for such projects are precious.

The 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, which since has departed Afghanistan, funded the project with Commander's Emergency Response Program funds. The regiment's successor, the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, supervised the work, which included a new well.

Marine Capt. Bart Battista, commander of the 1/3 Marines, Company B, reminded officials that further improvements will be tied to the local security situation. "We help the government when we can and where we can, and are always very happy to do it. But we must work together to improve security here, so that more help comes from nongovernmental organizations," he said.

"To the children here today: You are the future of the district," Battista continued. "Study hard so that you can be the teachers, headmasters or even the sub-governor. The only way you can do that is by applying yourself to your work."



Sayeed Rahman, sub-governor of Pachir wa Agam district in Nangarhar province, cuts the ribbon at the reopening ceremony of Agam High School March 25. At left is Marine Capt. Bart Battista, commander of B Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. At right is Nu Salaam, the president of Agam High School.

Supreme Court hears arguments on legality of military commissions

by **KATHLEEN RHEM**
American Forces Press Service

The Supreme Court heard oral arguments March 28 in a case that could make or break the government's military commissions process for terror war detainees held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

At issue in the case of Hamdan v. Rumsfeld is the legality of the military commissions set up after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The court also is deciding a question on its own jurisdiction in the case.

The government, represented here by Solicitor General Paul D. Clement, filed a brief with the court that argued the case on six separate legal issues. Government attorneys contend the president has constitutional and congressional authority to establish such war crimes courts outside the U.S. judiciary system and that al Qaeda detainees don't fall under the tenets of the Geneva Conventions.

"For centuries, this Nation has invoked military commissions to try and punish captured enemy combatants for offenses against the law of war," Clement wrote in introducing his brief.

Attorneys for Salim Ahmed Hamdan, a Yemeni citizen captured in Afghanistan and accused of being a body guard for terrorist leader Osama bin Laden, argue the process was never expressly authorized by Congress and doesn't meet standards of constitutional checks and bal-

ances.

"The president seeks not merely to detain temporarily but to dispense life imprisonment and death through a judicial system of his own design. Anyone, anytime, may be swept into this system and forced to endure years of waiting before their cases are even heard," Georgetown University law professor Neil Katyal, the defense's counsel of record in this case, wrote in a brief to the Supreme Court.

Hamdan's case has taken a circuitous route to the Supreme Court. He first appeared in court in a military commission pre-trial hearing at Guantanamo Bay in August 2004. That hearing ended with the presiding officer granting a continuance for the defense while senior officials in the commissions process ruled on a request by Hamdan's military attorney, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Charles Swift, to have several panel members removed for cause.

Before that matter could be settled, Judge James Robertson, of the U.S. District Court in Washington, ruled in November 2004 that the government had overstepped its bounds and violated the Geneva Conventions in trying Hamdan by military commission. The judge ruled the government should try Hamdan in a military court-martial, as it would a prisoner of war.

The government won on appeal when the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit ruled in July 2005 that the military commission is a com-

petent tribunal to try war crimes cases. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts was a member of that panel before his appointment to the Supreme Court and has rescued himself from the current case because of that conflict of interest.

The Detainee Treatment Act, a new law passed by Congress and signed by President Bush in December, further complicates the issue before the court today. The law strips the U.S. courts of jurisdiction in cases brought by detainees at Guantanamo Bay.

The Detainee Treatment Act allows for detainees to appeal convictions by military commissions to the D.C. Court of Appeals, but not to bring cases forward questioning the legality of the process or contesting their detention.

Soon after the law's enactment, the government petitioned the court to drop the Hamdan case on the premise that it no longer has jurisdiction in the matter.

The court announced Feb. 21 they would not rule on the matter but would instead hear arguments on the issue today with the original case. It also added an extra 30 minutes to the original hour allotted to discuss the additional question of jurisdiction.

The Supreme Court will announce its decisions in the case before it adjourns for the summer recess, usually sometime in late June.

The late Caspar Weinberger was secretary of defense from 1981 until 1987, making him the longest serving defense secretary to date.



DoD photo

Former U.S. defense secretary Caspar Weinberger dies at 88

by **JIM GARAMONE**
American Forces Press Service

Caspar W. Weinberger, the nation's 15th secretary of defense, died March 28. He was 88.

Weinberger took office Jan. 21, 1981, and served until Nov. 23, 1987, making him the longest-serving defense secretary to date. He died at the Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor from pneumonia. The former secretary lived on Mount Desert Island, off the coast of Maine.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said the men and women of DoD mourn Weinberger's passing. "Cap Weinberger was a friend. His extensive career in public service, his support for the men and women in uniform and his central role in helping to win the Cold War leave a lasting legacy," Rumsfeld said during a Pentagon news conference. "He left the United States armed forces stronger, our country safer and the world more free."

During his tenure at defense, Weinberger served as the point man for President Ronald Reagan's unprecedented peacetime military buildup.

As secretary, Weinberger pushed modernization to make up for past funding deficiencies. The Reagan military buildup spent more than a trillion dollars and was instrumental in the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Weinberger also pushed pay and benefit packages for servicemembers. Pay raises he helped engineer in the early 1980s went a long way in keeping mid-level servicemembers from leaving the military for better-paying civilian jobs.

The American military was active during Weinberger's time as defense secretary.

Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada in October 1983 was an answer to a bloody coup on the Caribbean island and the threat the new regime posed to American students at a medical college there. The regime, allied with Fidel Castro's Cuba, toppled following an air and seaborne assault by U.S. servicemembers.

Also that October was the bombing of the Marine Barracks in Lebanon that killed 241 Americans. Terrorist group Hezbollah claimed credit for the attack.

In April 1986, in response to Libyan terror attacks in Europe, the U.S. launched attacks on Tripoli and Benghazi in Libya. The mission was a tremendous demonstration of American reach.

Weinberger also championed the so-called "Star Wars" missile defense program, the Air Force's B-1B bomber, and a "600-ship" Navy.

Weinberger was born in San Francisco on Aug. 18, 1917. He graduated from Harvard with a law degree in 1941 and entered the U.S. Army as a private. He received a commission and served with the 41st Infantry Division in the Pacific. At the end of the war, he served on the staff of General of the Army Douglas MacArthur as an intelligence officer.

After the war, Weinberger won election to the California State Assembly in 1952 and re-election in 1954 and 1956. In 1962, he became chairman of the California Republican Party in 1962.

At the federal level, Weinberger was the chairman of the Federal Trade Commission in January 1970 and served as the deputy and then director of the Office of Management and Budget, where he earned the nickname "Cap the Knife."

He also served as the secretary of health, education, and welfare from 1973 to 1975.

Weinberger served as executive editor of *Forbes Magazine* since 1993. The former secretary is survived by his wife, Jane, a son and a daughter.

Rumsfeld: U.S. has work to do to improve communication with world

by **DONNA MILES**
American Forces Press Service

Asked how the United States is faring in the war of ideology against violent extremism, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld puts it squarely in the "needs to improve" box.

"If I were grading, I would say we probably deserve a D or a D-minus as a country as to how well we are doing," said Rumsfeld March 27 during a question-and-answer session following his address at the Army War College in Carlisle, Pa.

"I'm not going to suggest that it is easy," Rumsfeld acknowledged. "But we have not found the formula as a country."

That's a major shortcoming in this age of video cameras, 24-hour talk shows, blogs, e-mails and the Internet, the secretary said. These new technologies have sped up the way people communicate and in many cases, amplified their message because it reaches multiple audiences, he noted.

"The problem is that we have not yet adapted to all of these new realities that exist, and we are going to have to do a much better job at it," Rumsfeld said.

He noted during the Pentagon

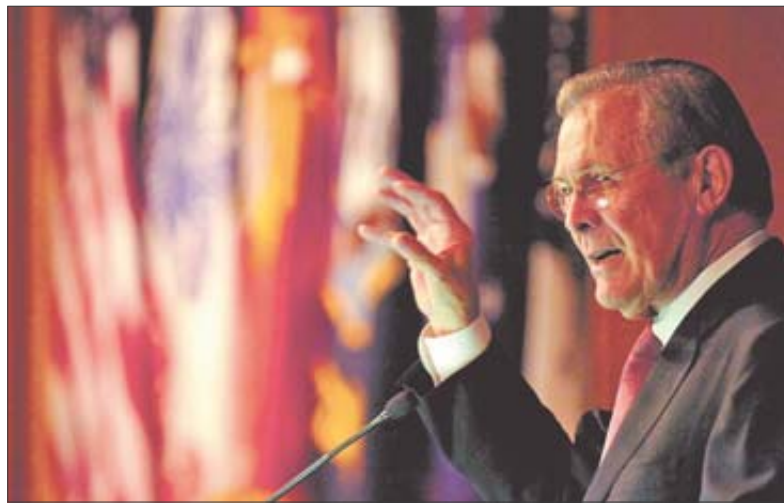


Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Chad J. McNeeley

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld speaks to students at the Army War College March 27.

news briefing that it's a lot easier to get out in front of a story if you don't let the facts get in the way — something he said the enemy has become quite good at. Enemy "spinners" manipulate the media to get their distortions out quickly, "while the truth is still putting its boots on," he said.

"If we jump out and make a mistake, there's a penalty for it," Rumsfeld said, noting that's not so for the enemy.

"Clearly the U.S. government

has not gotten to the point where it's as deft, clever, facile and quick as the enemy," the secretary said.

Another part of the problem, Rumsfeld told Army War College students, is that the United States is so concerned about self-promotion that it too often leaves it to others to define it — sometimes in inaccurate or unflattering ways.

"This is a wonderful country," he said, with its generosity, tolerance and acceptance of diversity. But it's often characterized by others in

ways the secretary called "unfortunate."

That makes it tougher for the country to advance its causes, he said. "When people are leaning toward you, as you all know, things are easy," Rumsfeld said at the Army War College. "And when people are leaning away from you, things are much more difficult."

Yet, "every time the United States tries to do anything that would communicate something positive about what we are doing in the world, we are criticized in the press and in the Congress," he said. And the self-examination process begins again, he said.

The United States has some work to do to improve the way it communicates with the world, particularly as it wages the war on terror, a war Rumsfeld said ultimately boils down to a war of conflicting ideologies.

It's a battle, not between the West and the Muslim world, but rather, between a small number of violent extremists and the majority of the Muslim world who don't share their views or methods, Rumsfeld said. "And we are going to have to find ways to encourage and support those moderate voices," he said, "because they are the ones who are in the struggle."

German Baking 101:

Eierlikörtorte the perfect sweet treat for the Easter holidays, all celebrations

by MARTINA BIAS
Bavarian News Food & Culture columnist

This year for Easter, I am sharing with you a recipe for a wonderful German flourless cake.

This luscious family favorite is prepared with Eierlikör and topped with decadent whipped cream.

Eierlikör is often compared to American eggnog, but it is not really the same. The German version is made from egg yolks, sugar, vanilla, cream and some form of alcohol.

Most Germans purchase ready-made Eierlikör in the store, but you can easily make it at home with the following recipe. You can use any alcohol of your choice:

- Eierlikör:
- 5 egg yolks
 - 1 cup confectionary sugar
 - 2 tsp. vanilla extract
 - ½ cup whipping cream
 - 1 cup alcohol (whisky, rum, vodka or any of the many German schnapps such as Himbeergeist, Kirschwasser, or the French Calvados)

Beat the egg yolks, sugar, and vanilla until light and foamy. Slowly add whipping cream, continuing to stir. Slowly stir in the alcohol.

Let the mixture sit in the refrigerator for at least one day. Pour into clean bottles. Eierlikör will keep in the refrigerator for about four weeks.

Yield: about 3 cups

Many Germans take great care in making this traditional holiday treat, use only the freshest eggs, and even make a point of knowing the egg’s origin.

The cake prepared with the Eierlikör is perfect for your Easter celebration as its white surface makes a picture-perfect canvas for colorful celebration.

If you are serving the cake to adults, you can drizzle additional Eierlikör over the top. You can also sprinkle green tinted coconut flakes (liquid food coloring works well) on top of the cake to create a “spring meadow” backdrop for marshmallow bunnies and candy eggs.

Fröhliche Ostern!

- Eierlikörtorte:
- 5 eggs
 - 1 cup sugar
 - 6 Tbs. butter or margarine, melted
 - 1 ¾ cups ground hazelnuts
 - 2 ½ tsp. baking powder
 - 2 Tbs. Eierlikör
 - 2 Tbs. rum
 - 1 cup grated chocolate (semi-sweet or unsweetened)
 - 2 ½ cups whipping cream

For decoration:
additional Eierlikör



German Eierlikörtorte

flaked coconut (tinted green with food coloring)
marshmallow bunnies
candy eggs

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Grease and flour a 10-inch Springform pan.

In a large bowl, mix eggs, sugar, and melted butter or margarine until sugar is dissolved. Add hazelnuts, baking powder, Eierlikör, and rum. Mix well. Carefully fold in the grated chocolate.

Gently pour batter into pan. Bake for 45 minutes.

Cool on wire rack. The cake can be baked up to two days in advance.

Just before serving, whip cream until soft peaks form (be careful not to overbeat). Spread over cooled cake. Decorate as desired.

Yield: 12–16 servings

Do you have a favorite German dish you would like to recreate at home?

You can e-mail me at martina.bias@us.army.mil, and I may be able to feature your recipe in a future issue.

German Culture 101:

Osterbrunnen a uniquely German Easter tradition

by MARTINA BIAS
Bavarian News Food & Culture columnist

This is the time of year when everyone is tired of the winter snow and looking forward to spring, when nature wakes up to bless us with its beauty and bounty.

Easter is the holiday that celebrates the new beginning of life and fits perfectly into the refreshing spring season.

One of Germany’s unique holiday traditions is decorating Easter egg fountains, or Osterbrunnen.

This decorative tradition is rooted in giving thanks for the life-giving water.

Before central water systems, water was a precious resource, especially in areas where it was not very abundant. During this time, wells were drawn and cisterns built in preparation for water shortages as area land structures did not provide many natural collection points.

Women usually took on the laborious task of retrieving water and lugging it to their homes. Because the wells were critical to their survival, it is no surprise that they were kept extremely clean and were taken well care of.

In some areas, the people even built small “houses” over the well openings for added protection.

No one know exactly when the decorating of the Easter egg fountains started, but many believe it can be traced to the neighboring Fränkische-Schweiz, or Franconian-Switzerland region, where it has become a very popular tourist attraction.

It may have begun around the start of the 20th century. Records show that the first well in Aufseß was decorated around 1909, and around 1914 in Engelhardsberg.

The traditional ritual starts with the clean-



Painted eggs adorn Osterbrunnen.



Courtesy photos

Today more than 200 villages and cities in the Fränkische-Schweiz region boast decorated wells and fountains.

ing of the well or fountain and the grounds around it. This is called “fegen” (literally – sweeping).

This task used to be reserved for young men, but today it is done mostly by women. After the cleaning, the fun part can begin.

The main decorations are blown-out eggs that can be painted in a solid shade or more colorful and artistic patterns.

In recent years, many villages have turned to plastic eggs, as the fragile real eggs are often destroyed by the weather or, sadly, vandalism.

Single or bundled paper garlands, called “Pensala,” as well as spruce branches, are wound around the well and shaped into elaborate crowns on which the eggs are fastened. Some people also add flowers to the fountains.

Today more than 200 villages and cities in the Fränkische-Schweiz region boast decorated wells and fountains. These works of art

often feature hundreds of eggs and draw thousands of admirers each year.

The world record for the most eggs on an Easter fountain was set by Sulzbach-Rosenberg last spring. The biggest Easter well in the world sported 16,501 eggs. It took 70 people one and a half years to prepare the blown-out, hand painted eggs.

Including all of the preparation time, including spending 30 minutes to attach each egg, the project took 1,031 work days. If one person had taken on the whole task alone, it would have taken 4.6 years to complete.

So this year, I encourage you to take advantage of a beautiful spring weekend and pay a visit to the Fränkische-Schweiz to marvel at the beautifully decorated fountains and this wonderful German tradition.

Have you ever wondered why Germans do certain things? I welcome your questions and comments. E-mail me at martina.bias@us.army.mil, and I may be able to address your question in a future column.



Smaller Osterbrunnen dot the yards of private homes.



German Easter egg fountains come in all shapes and sizes.